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TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

R. A. Cushman arrived in Washington on March 27, after a six months' trip to the Philippines. As announced before in the NEWS LETTER, the purpose of his trip was to pack for shipment to the National Museum the C. F. Baker collection of approximately 300,000 specimens of insects. Mr. Cushman reports that he found the collection in very good condition. There were, however, some mold and corrosion of pins. The collection arrived safely in San Francisco and is now on its way to New York via the Panama Canal. It is expected that Mr. Cushman will meet the collection when it arrives in New York and oversee its transshipment there and at Norfolk. He reports that in the arduous task of packing and shipping this enormous collection he received the kindest of cooperation from the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines, the Quartermaster Corps, and many private citizens, notably Dr. R. L. Pendleton, administrator of the Baker estate.

Dr. W. Schaus spent from the 11th to the 15th of March examining various collections of Lepidoptera in Boston. He first visited Mr. Weeks, spent an evening with B. Preston Clark, and spent some time studying the collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Morgan Hebard, of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, visited the Division on March 29 and 30, and arranged some exchanges of Orthoptera with A. N. Caudell.

On March 26 G. P. Engelhardt, of Brooklyn, N. Y., on his way to Texas for a collecting trip, called at the Division to see the various specialists.

The National Geographic Magazine is planning a series of articles on various orders of insects, and for the past month or so photographers from its staff have been engaged in making colored photographs of specimens in the Museum collection. The specialists in the Division have spent some time in preparing specimens of the more showy forms for photographing. Some time ago the National Geographic published an article accompanied by some very excellent colored plates of butterflies and moths, and, judging by the examples seen so far in the orders Coleoptera and Orthoptera, it is expected that the plates now in preparation will be just as successful.

Dr. Dyar recently received an interesting lot of mosquitoes from Dr. D. P. Curry, of Panama, among them being a new anopheline and the male of a form previously known only from the female.

TRUCK-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

J. E. Dudley, Jr., Madison, Wis., attended the meetings of the North Central States Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, held at St. Louis, Mo., March 1 to 3.

On March 22 Alfred Weed left Madison, Wis., for Twin Falls, Idaho, to confer with Walter Carter about plans for studies on the ecology of the pea aphid.

K. L. Cockerham, Biloxi, Miss., spent several days of the first week of March at A. & M. College, Miss., conferring with members of the State Plant Board relative to cooperative work with the sweet-potato weevil in southern Mississippi.

Joe Milam returned to Clarksville, Tenn., March 1, from a temporary assignment with the Federal Horticultural Board in the Southwest.

On March 1 M. H. Atwood, formerly connected with the Federal Horticultural Board and this Bureau, was appointed Field Assistant and assigned to work on the sweet-potato weevil at Grand Bay, Ala.

J. W. McGlamery, for the past 6½ years connected with the work on the sweet-potato weevil in Florida, resigned on March 2 to accept a similar relationship with the Florida State Plant Board.

D. P. Ellington was appointed Field Assistant March 5, and assigned to the work on the sweet-potato weevil at Picayune, Miss.

O. E. Gahm has been given a probationary appointment as Junior Entomologist, effective March 14, and assigned to the Mexican bean beetle laboratory at Columbus, Ohio.

M. Brunson has been transferred from the Federal Horticultural Board to the suboffice at Picayune, Miss., under date of March 16, and assigned to the work on the sweet-potato weevil in Pearl River County.

L. W. Brannon returned March 26 to Birmingham, Ala., from Columbus, Ohio, and will resume his investigations on the Mexican bean beetle.

W. H. White and C. H. Popenoe visited Coatesville, Pa., and vicinity on March 26 and 27 to make inspections of mushroom houses.

J. E. Graf attended the conference on the pink bollworm held at Memphis on March 30.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

J. M. Miller and J. C. Evenden visited our field station at Asheville, N. C., on their return trip from a detail to Washington, D. C. They left Washington on March 4.

J. A. Beal and Dr. F. C. Craighead spent the third week in March at the branch at Starke, Fla., of the Southern Forest Experiment Station at New Orleans, La. At this point the Bureau is cooperating with the Forest Service on experimental studies in turpentining.

The Department of Natural Resources of the State of California has just issued as Bulletin No. 7 "Insect enemies of California pines and their control," by F. P. Keen, Associate Entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology. This bulletin deals in a comprehensive way with the most important forest insects of California, and will be of considerable use to foresters and lumbermen interested in protection from such insects.

On March 22 and 23 the Fourth Shade Tree Conference was held in Washington. The Conference is a meeting of scientists and persons engaged in practical shade-tree work, held to discuss the improvement of conditions in general as regards the shade trees of the United States. Dr. C. L. Marlatt spoke on work of the Bureau of Entomology and its relation to shade-tree problems. A round-table discussion on injury by oil sprays and the use of casein spreaders was led by Dr. W. E. Britton, Connecticut State Entomologist, and a paper on "Some factors affecting outbreaks of shade-tree insects" was given by William Middleton, of this office. The following entomologists were in attendance: Dr. C. L. Marlatt, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology, Dr. E. P. Felt, Chairman of this conference, Dr. W. E. Britton, Prof. J. S. Houser, of Ohio, A. F. Burgess, W. O. Hollister, of The Davey Company, and Mr. Middleton. The meetings were very well attended and there were some interesting and profitable discussions.

Dr. T. E. Snyder reports that interceptions of the dry-wood termite Kalotermes (Cryptotermes) piceatus Sny. in 1927 at the port of Honolulu, Hawaii, probably establish China as its original habitat, termites of this species having been discovered in household articles of Chinese passengers from China. This termite has been known to occur in the Hawaiian Islands only since 1904. It is found at Honolulu (on Oahu) and at Hilo (on Hawaii).

TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL PLANT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. C. Baker, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

Dr. C. A. Weigel returned late in March from a month's trip to the Pacific Coast, in the course of which he conferred with Dr. F. R. Cole, of Santa Cruz, Calif., and C. F. Doucette, of Puyallup, Wash., in regard to the work of the field laboratories at those places on bulb flies and other pests of narcissus and other flowering bulbs.

While on the Pacific Coast Dr. Weigel attended the fifth annual convention of the Northwest Florists' Association, held March 4, 5 and 6 at Vancouver, B. C., and gave an address on "Insect pests of florists' stock grown under glass." He also discussed the subject of "Bulb insects and their control" before the Bulb Growers' section of this association, at a meeting held in conjunction with the parent organization.

Dr. Weigel met informally groups of narcissus growers at Portland, Oreg., March 12, and Los Angeles, Calif., March 21, and at each meeting problems relating to narcissus-bulb insects were discussed.

E. A. McGregor, in charge of the citrus thrips field laboratory at Lindsay, Calif., has addressed Farm Bureau meetings at various places in California, including Orange Cove January 13, Ivanhoe March 13, and Sanger March 14. Such meetings, addressed by Mr. McGregor, are usually well attended and followed by considerable discussion. Mr. McGregor reports that, because of their sufferings from thrips in 1927, California citrus growers are turning more and more to remedial measures. A mimeographed progress report by Mr. McGregor seems to have crystallized a desire by growers to have the facts presented to them orally. As a result, the annual spray program in California is being modified.

Dr. Adolph Dampf, of the Mexico Department of Agriculture, has been appointed collaborator and will assist in the research work on the Mexican fruit worm. His headquarters will be in Mexico City. A temporary laboratory has been constructed at Cuernavaca, Mexico, where certain field work will be conducted.

Dr. A. C. Baker has spent the entire month of March in Mexico, organizing the research work on the Mexican fruit worm. Until a suitable specialist can be selected, Dr. C. I. Bliss will have charge of this work, as well as of the work which is being conducted in the field laboratory at New Orleans.

COTTON-INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

B. R. Coad, Entomologist, in Charge

B. R. Coad and R. C. Gaines have spent the greater part of February and March in western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, perfecting plans for the season's investigations of the Arizona weevil and the pink bollworm. Final arrangements have been made for the inauguration of a complete program of research on the pink bollworm, which has now become sufficiently abundant in some of the more remote sections of western Texas to permit research investigations there. The investigations of the Bureau and the State Experiment Station of Texas will be carried on cooperatively; the funds of the two organizations are pooled, and the entire research program is to be conducted under the active direction of Dr. F. A. Fenton, of this Bureau, with headquarters at El Paso, Tex. A laboratory has been installed at Presidio, and additional substations at Castolon and Marfa, all in Texas, and the new organization, involving at least half a dozen entomologists, will inaugurate a complete biological and ecological study of the insect in this region. During the current season especial attention will be devoted to the manner of spread, with particular reference to the questions of flight and wind transportation.

M. T. Young, F. F. Bondy and W. A. Stevenson, who have been temporarily detailed to weevil investigations in Arizona during the winter months, have returned to their headquarters at Tallulah.

E. W. Dunnam, who for a number of years has been stationed at Florence, S. C., conducting biological investigations on the boll weevil, has been transferred to Tallulah, La., where he plans to continue the same line of work. He will give special attention to the seasonal habits, dispersal and chemotropic reactions of the weevil.

V. V. Williams, who for several years has been stationed at Calexico, Calif., investigating the biology of the cotton-leaf perforator, has spent the month of March in Tallulah, completing the manuscript of a progress report on this problem.

On March 30, at Memphis, Tenn., B. R. Coad attended a meeting of commissioners of agriculture, State quarantine officers and State entomologists of the Southern States, called to consider the problem of the pink bollworm in Texas. The sentiment of the meeting was unanimously in favor of the inauguration, at the earliest practicable time, of a plan for complete eradication of the pink bollworm from the North American continent.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. H. Larrimer, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

In the latter part of March K. W. Babcock and A. M. Vance, of the European corn-borer laboratory at Arlington, Mass., spent about a week in Washington consulting with Bureau officials and preparing a manuscript.

W. B. Cartwright, of the Sacramento, Calif., field laboratory, visited the Washington office March 27 to 30. He was then on his way to the European corn-borer laboratory at Arlington, Mass., to discuss matters concerning his proposed trip to the Orient for work on parasites of the European corn borer.

W. J. Phillips, in charge of the Charlottesville, Va., laboratory, was in Washington March 26 for consultation with Bureau officials.

R. A. Blanchard, of the Tempe, Ariz., laboratory, has accepted a transfer to take charge of the field laboratory at Sacramento, Calif.

D. J. Caffrey spent March 12 to 15 and March 26 to 29 in the Washington office, consulting with Bureau officials regarding research on the European corn borer.

Among the visitors at this office in March were A. C. Carton, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Industry, Lansing, Mich., C. P. Norgord, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Farms and Markets, Albany, N. Y., and Richard Faxon, of the Division of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Columbus, Ohio.

L. H. Worthley was in Washington March 20 to 22, on business relating to the Congressional hearings on the European corn borer.

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Mabel Colcord, Librarian

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